

1 Samuel - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 1 Samuel 14, Verses 22-52, Day 84 - (14:22-52)

V.22 Those who had no desire to fight the Lord's battles, now hear that the enemy fled, so they suddenly come to life. Like us sometimes — when life gets difficult to stand up for the Lord, we hide. But when other believers have stayed and stood up and succeeded then we reappear to get some benefit.

V.24 What King Saul did. The only part he contributed was to trouble and hinder the people of Israel and particularly so the man who deserved most credit — his son Jonathan. Saul only thought of himself in verse 24. Now that he had been in power only a little while, all thought about God was gone.

V.27 Jonathan hadn't heard his father forbid anyone to eat that day.

V.29 Shows us how far apart father and son really were. Jonathan was the one God was using, not Saul. The food had strengthened Jonathan.

V.30-33 The people, seeing how Jonathan was helped, go out to battle, win, and eat the sheep, oxen and calves in defiance of the king. But they go too far, for they ate the blood too. This was a sin against God.

V.34-52 Saul builds an altar to the Lord at the very time he had brought his son under the sentence of death.

V.47 Though Saul attacked the enemies, he didn't destroy them as he should have.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 1 Samuel 3, Verses 1-10, Day 71 - (3:1-10)

V.1 The wickedness of the house of Eli was in sharp contrast with one faithful person. "The child Samuel ministered unto the Lord, and the Word of the Lord was precious (rare) in those days." Just one young boy surrounded by much evil. Who is willing to walk with God today? It is dark and evil, but still possible to walk with God. The challenge is very personal, though you will not find yourself alone, for there are others also to whom the word of the Lord is precious.

V.2-3 Here we have a night-time story. Eli the priest was almost blind; the lamp of God in the temple was going out, and it was a very dark time in Israel's history. This is a picture of the day in which we are now living. The light of the Word of God has been rejected, and those who ought to be able to guide and instruct God's people are almost blind.

V.4 Even at such a time of darkness as today, there is still the voice of the Lord to be heard.

V.5-10 Samuel did not recognize the call of the Lord. But at last it is made clear to him that the Lord was really calling.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, 1 Samuel 3, Verses 11-21, Day 72 - (3:11-21)

V.11 We don't know how old Samuel was at this time but he was a boy. The Lord tells Samuel that what He was going to do would make everyone's ears tingle! The Lord waited long, but Eli did not correct his guilty sons, nor did they turn from their wicked ways. God may wait patiently, but he will not overlook sin.

V.12-14 The Lord said He would do this. Take time to read in 1 Kings 2:27 what happened about 120 years later. Does God say something and not carry it out?

V.15-20 Samuel tells the whole message to Eli, and though Eli submitted to it, he didn't seem to feel responsible to correct his guilty sons, even then.

V.21 And it was in Shiloh, the one place the Lord had chosen to set His Name. The Lord will reveal Himself to a believer today who is willing to hear and obey. Notice carefully how the Lord reveals Himself.